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Zero hour for peace

M. L. Wilson, Director of Cooperative Extension Work

■ Many of us remember the hope of nations, after World War I, that there would never again be a war of such proportions. It was a vain hope. If progress in military science and mechanical warfare should accelerate proportionately in the next 10 or 20 years as it did in the past 10 or 20 years, World War III, if allowed to come, will be suicidal.

Last fall, at the Dumbarton Oaks Conference with Britain, Russia, and China, a tentative draft was prepared for a world charter to insure peace. This draft will be considered at San Francisco by delegates invited from all the United Nations, and their governments will be asked to ratify the agreement. Our Senate will debate and pass on the virtues of the instruments to be agreed upon at the Golden Gate sessions. The San Francisco Conference will overshadow any conference that preceded it, such as the United Nations Food Conference held at Hot Springs, Va., in April 1943; the UNRRA Conference of 1943; the Bretton Woods Conference and the Dumbarton Oaks Conference of 1944; and the series of meetings held by the leading military powers of the United Nations. All these were but a part of the preliminary arrangements necessary for the historic session this month.

The Cooperative Extension Service has agreed to cooperate actively with the State Department in doing everything possible to acquaint rural people with the nature of the proposed world security organization and to stimulate their thinking about it. The purpose of this educational program, which will be widespread in scope, should not be mistaken as an effort to sell the public on the proposed world security plan. Rather,

it should be looked upon as education rising to its challenge and doing a good and thorough job to help our citizens understand what the problems are and the pros and cons of the proposals.

If education is truly the foundation of democracy, then every branch of education certainly has a responsibility for informing our citizens of the world security proposals. Next to the important educational assignment of helping farmers meet their 1945 food production goals, nothing we do can be more important this spring. Extension's part in the program will vary somewhat by States,

On the docket for April

■ Food needs for our own armed forces and for relief feeding grow greater, and more shipping is becoming available to ship food overseas. These point to the need for maximum production—planting bigger and better Victory Gardens, recruiting more volunteers to do emergency harvesting, and more help with production problems.

State reports show that Victory Gardens are off to a good start everywhere. Increased sales of seed in several States indicate that the gardeners mean business. Oklahoma aims to have a garden on every farm and at every home in the State where suitable space is available. Georgians are looking forward to more city and suburban gardens, especially in industrial areas; Arkansas expects a 10-percent increase in numbers of town and city gardens. Mississippi has just completed a series of garden schools; Kentucky finds the outlook better than a year ago; and California county agents have reorgan-

ized their garden committees and set the goal of 1 million gardens—an increase of a quarter of a million over last year.

This month a number of aids for labor recruitment will be distributed. Three posters are ready: Call to Farms, an appeal to women; Goin' My Way? a VFV poster using a natural-color photograph; and Fill It Up, a general recruiting poster. A kit of material for county agents will again offer ideas and suggestions for local labor and recruitment campaigns. National magazine articles and radio network programs are now in preparation for late spring and summer. The week of May 7 has been designated for national network allocations by the Office of War Information. The motion picture, "Victory Harvests," is available from State extension offices.

Kansas neighborhood leaders are at work on fat salvage; and Oregon is distributing 30,000 copies of a fat salvage circular.

How to stretch farm labor

■ Elburn is a busy Illinois town with a population of about 600. It was never busier in all its history than when the labor-saving show came to town February 2. Snow and cold didn't keep the farmers and their wives away. They brought in more than 66 home-made labor-saving devices and "gadgets" to enter in the prize contest. Attendance was estimated to be at least 1,500 persons.

County Farm Adviser A. C. Johnston, of Kane County and his staff were busier than cranberry merchants. Besides the home-made devices brought in by Kane County farmers over snowy roads, there were two truckloads of devices, display panels, and movie and sound equipment from the College of Agriculture of the University of Illinois. This material would make a show in itself, but the home-made material entered invariably was the high spot of the show. Farmers are saving hundreds of man-hours annually with these devices. The department of agricultural engineering expects to combine the best ideas exhibited at the shows and prepare plans for making home-made equipment. These plans will be made available to all farmers in Illinois.

Three separate places were used to stage the labor-saving show in Elburn. One was an implement building where the home-made "gadgets" were displayed. The second was a vacant store where the College of Agriculture panels and labor-saving devices were set up. The third was the basement of the town's largest church, which was filled to overflowing with the crowd that came to see the movies and hear the speaking program.

The local entries ranged from a home-made farm tractor to a simple float control switch for pumping water to a stock tank and a self-unloading feed wagon. Prizes are awarded on the basis of the amount of labor saved and the practicability of the devices in the opinion of local judges. At Elburn, entries were received from several nearby counties, which were brought in despite the wintry condition of the roads.

Prizes for county and State-wide winners were offered by a national

foundation and public utilities company in northern Illinois. These were often supplemented by local prizes of war bonds, war stamps, and merchandise, according to P. E. Johnston, State farm labor supervisor. The shows were widely publicized by newspapers and radio stations. Special coverage of the opening show at Urbana, January 12, was given by WILL, the University of Illinois station, which has carried a daily report of each show. The "Dinner Bell" program, a regular noon feature on Station WLS, Chicago, was broadcast from the second show at Havana, January 17; and such widespread interest was shown by listeners that daily reports on each of the remaining shows were carried by this station.

"But chief satisfaction for those who were responsible for these labor-saving shows was the fact that farmers used the shows as a place to share ideas and discuss ways and means to meet the toughest crop-raising job on record," says State Supervisor Johnston. Speakers at the shows found attentive audiences when they discussed practical methods of saving labor. Here are five suggestions which formed the

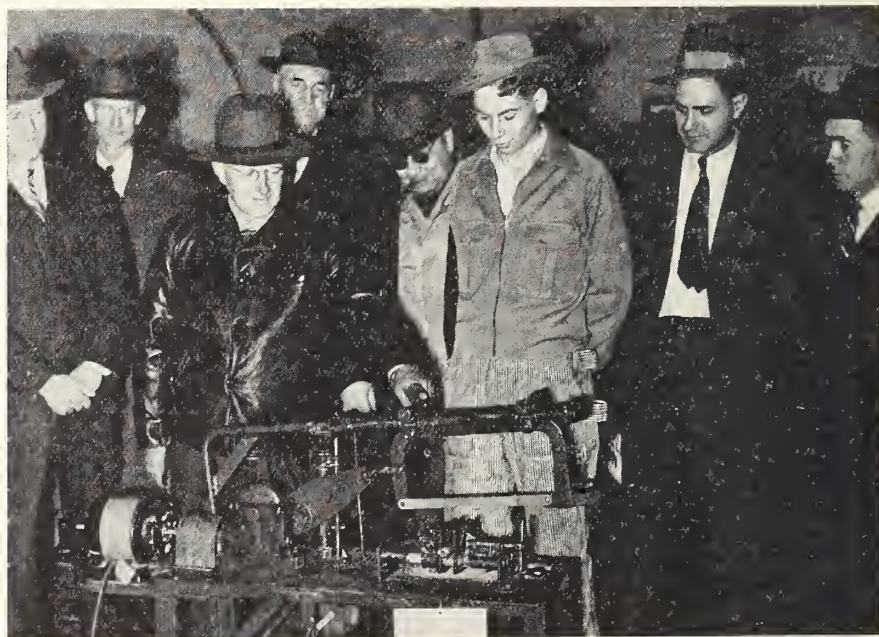
keynote of the gatherings: (1) Plan your chores to save time; (2) use machinery efficiently to eliminate as much work as possible; (3) exchange labor and machines with your neighbors; (4) rearrange the fields to save labor; (5) plan crop acreages and livestock production to use available labor to best advantage.

The home side of the labor-saving problem was not forgotten. The exhibit, *Homemakers Can Save Time, Steps, Stoops and Energy*, proved exceedingly popular with the women.

The committee in charge of planning and staging the shows was composed of W. D. Murphy, assistant State farm labor supervisor, chairman; K. H. Hinchcliff, assistant professor of agricultural engineering extension; J. E. Wills, assistant professor of agricultural economics extension; Mrs. Madge L. Little, assistant State farm labor supervisor in charge of the Women's Land Army; and Henry W. Gilbert, district farm labor supervisor. The Illinois Farmers' Institute also cooperated in staging the shows which continued through March 2 to make a total of 24 shows distributed over all sections of the State.

T. J. Shambaugh, farmer, who is a graduate of the U. of I. College of Agriculture, also helped stage the shows.

"The home-made hack saw works to save time and labor," explains Farmer Martin Wettke at the Carbondale, Ill., show. County Agent John L. Walter of Massac County is one of the interested onlookers.



Forestry for village boys

E. E. BERGSTROM, 4-H Club Agent, Rutland County, Vt.

■ How 4-H forestry can produce a critical war material and at the same time provide education and recreation for village boys has been demonstrated in Rutland County, Vt. For many years the program here for 4-H Club boys living in small towns has centered on forestry. The boys have learned about farm woodlot management, thinning maple stands, and lumbering operations, and, in the process, have improved the woodlands and had a lot of fun doing it.

Rutland County is made up of 28 towns, most of which have some industry. Many people who are employed in these industries live in the villages or have small farms. With woodlands so close by in need of attention, forestry projects were a natural choice for the 4-H Club members living here. Help and advice on the county activities were given by the specialists of the U. S. Forest Service whose headquarters are located in the city of Rutland and by the forestry specialists of the Extension Service.

Boys Develop Woodland

For a number of years, boys in many communities helped to plant school forests, watershed forests, and private woodlands. More recently the boys have been thinning demonstration plots. Much land in this area not suitable for cultivation has grown up to maple and pine mixed with inferior varieties and is very much in need of thinning. Plots varying from one-eighth to one acre in size have been thinned in a number of stands of timber, usually in a location which can be seen by people driving by.

Each year about 75 boys from 7 different 4-H Clubs have been working on woodland-improvement projects. Twenty-four demonstration plots have been thinned and from 25 to 30 cords of wood removed.

The demonstration plots were located by the county agent, laid out by compass, and the trees marked for removal. The work was carried out during the winter months. The trees removed were cut pole length and piled up for the owner's disposal.

Some owners of the stands of timber allowed the boys to keep the wood and sell it to obtain funds for their treasury. The brush was flattened so that it would decay and make humus. When the work was done, the boys measured the cords of wood cut and the timber left standing. As many as 15 to 20 boys worked on some plots. The work was carefully supervised to prevent accidents.

Fun Mixed With Work

The cutting was a lot of work, but the boys usually mixed fun with it. Outdoor cooking, fishing through the ice, skiing, and snowshoeing were usually a part of the day's work.

Several demonstrations were on softwood stands in the city forests where pruning and thinning were practiced. Oftentimes this work was done before Christmas, and the boughs were sold for Christmas decorations.

Some of the boys have done custom woodlot surveying, and all the members have learned to use a hypsometer and calipers and to survey timber areas. During the depression, several areas were surveyed for figures on tree growth.

The office staff of the Green Mountain National Forest helped arrange tours to mills, CCC camps, plywood mills, and lumbering operations. We have always hoped to have a winter camp for the forestry boys. So far it has not materialized, but we still think a few days' program which could include surveying, field trips to lumber jobs, talks by specialists, camp cookery, contests in chopping and sawing, and skiing and snowshoeing for recreation would be very much worth while.

Boys Thin 15 Acres

Two boys, George and Andrew Livak of Rutland Town, have thinned out, with the help of their club, about 15 acres of young growth of maple. Each year they have sold up to 50 cords of cordwood from their plot which they hope to use for a sugar-bush.

A number of years ago, Gaylord and Vernon Fish of Ira thinned out a stand of young maples for a sugar-

bush. This stand has been tapped for several years, and the work was well worth the effort. Some stands were maple saplings about 1 to 2 inches in diameter, and the first thinning was made to space them 6 by 6 feet. New thinnings are needed to space the trees 12 by 12, and a fine harvest of cordwood can be obtained.

The plots were judged each year and awards made according to the time spent on the job. A number of interested citizens provided funds which were used for the purchase of axes, hatchets, and pocket knives as awards for the work done.

At the Rutland Fair each year we have had axe and saw sharpening contests with awards made by merchants and the Rutland Lions' Club.

Farm boys have done less forestry work than the village boys because they, as a rule, have been active in dairying and other projects. Village boys like to hike, hunt, and fish. They believe that this forestry work is a contribution toward the beauty and usefulness of our hills and a guarantee against fires and destruction of a national asset.

This project is also good for the agent and leaders. It gets them out of doors and helps to keep up winter appetites, besides developing new muscles and skills.

Something new in meetings

Something new in poultry meetings is being tried in Suffolk County, Long Island, N. Y. Poultrymen were asked to send in or bring their questions to the meetings at which four local poultrymen served as a "board of experts." Each question was referred to one of the experts who told how he handled that particular problem on his farm. A specialist from the College of Agriculture at Cornell University supplemented the expert's information. Poultrymen were selected for the board of experts by the county agricultural agent on the basis of experience in certain phases of poultry production. One or more of the group had experience in producing eggs, broilers, and turkeys; in breeding, hatching, retail sales, poultry house construction, poultry range management, and similar skills.—L. E. Weaver, extension poultry specialist, New York.

Muck farmers' caravan

■ Late in January for the last 2 years a little caravan of travelers, experts in each of their fields, has been going out from the agricultural experiment station at Purdue University, headed for the great partially developed muck beds of northern Indiana. The specialists are armed with the results of another year of study and research in agronomy, insect pest and plant disease control, and new vegetable crop experiments affecting muck-soil farmers.

This new, war-born idea originated with Roscoe Fraser, popular headman of the caravan of extension specialists; and the activity has become another milestone in the university's fostership of an amazing farming development of the present century.

There are some 300,000 Hoosier acres classified as muck soil, and a score of years ago that was something for which good Indianians admittedly were a little ashamed to claim ownership. For the most part it was termed "bogus soil" that rated no better than submarginal land; and at one time, it was reported, legal tender of the distinctly muck swamp area was divided between bullfrogs and huckleberries.

Purdue Agronomist Makes Discovery

It was some 30 years ago that a Purdue agronomist, Samuel Conners, discovered that addition of potash and phosphate to well-drained muck soil would make it suitable for farming. Here and there an enterprising farmer employed the aid of appropriate fertilizers, and good results became increasingly consistent.

The Purdue Agricultural Experiment Station, anxious to intensify its research in muck-soil crop production, obtained some acreage in St. Joseph County, near South Bend; and establishment of an experimental farm marked the beginning of a new era of muck farming in the State. Roughly a third of the muck land has been developed, and the twentieth century frontiersmen who have reclaimed it are being richly rewarded for their efforts.

The university, along with the State Vegetable Growers' Association of Indiana and Northern Indiana

Muck Crops Growers' Association, for many years has staged a muck-crop show along with a school for muck farmers. To encourage good farming practices in the muck area, a number of prizes and awards were distributed at the annual show to those who produced top yields.

The caravan, inaugurated to save gasoline and tires for the farmers who made long drives to the one show in other years, now stops in seven different communities, dispensing information, awards, and prizes.

Climax of the tour is the crowning of a muck crops king who, in 1944, was Whitney K. Gast, Akron, Ind., a former county agricultural agent, whose record included: Onions, 848 bushels per acre; potatoes, 524 bush-

els per acre; corn, 82 bushels per acre; in addition to an excellent crop of cabbage. Other topnotchers gained laurels for mint growing, a farm industry almost exclusive to Indiana and Michigan.

The great Middlewest muck bed extends to the east as far as New York, west as far as Iowa, and north into Minnesota and Michigan. Of the Indiana area, scientists believe that about 90 percent of the once near-worthless land can be made fully productive. They say 5 percent is too alkaline and 5 percent is too acid for profitable farming.

Since the tremendous development and expansion of muck farming began a decade ago, scores of Indiana farmers have become more efficient and more progressive; and Purdue University has gained a host of everlasting friends.

Oregon labor-saving exhibit draws big crowds

■ When the emergency farm labor office in the Oregon State College Extension Service decided late in November to conduct a series of farm and home labor-saving equipment demonstrations, J. R. Beck, State farm labor supervisor, and his staff knew there would be a lot of interest in work simplification and labor-saving devices among farmers and homemakers.

But after the series of 31 different demonstrations which covered 17 of the 18 counties west of the Cascade Mountains got under way, even the farm labor staff was surprised at the size of the turn-outs and the intensity of interest.

Without exception, the crowds attending the demonstrations were larger than anticipated. Some of the exhibit locations, which included grange halls for a third of the showings, were inadequate for proper handling of the large numbers. Those attending were not motivated merely by curiosity, either. The men gathered around pieces of farm equipment displayed by the Extension Service and machinery brought in by local farmers and remade and improved mentally and orally most of the pieces shown. They really were interested.

Women carefully studied the home-making exhibits and listened attentively to explanations of work simplification in the home. They then brought their husbands in to show them the exhibits—that is, if the menfolk were not already inside viewing some of the farm and home exhibits, or giving attention to a practical demonstration on how to iron a shirt in 5 minutes through use of a wide ironing board, which may easily be home-made, attached to the regular ironing board.

Attendance was about equally divided between men and women, but whereas relatively few women went through the machinery demonstrations most of the men were definitely interested in the kitchen, laundry, sewing, food, and other exhibits. It was not an unusual thing to see men measuring shelves, drawers, and space in the kitchen sink or mixing units, or taking notes on the portable wood box, the kitchen utility table, or the laundry cart—until they were told that complete plans and specifications would be sent to them by their county agent or home demonstration agent if they would check a prepared bulletin and circular list.

Only circulars and bulletins relating directly to the demonstration

were listed. Most of these were new publications prepared in connection with the exhibits by Clyde Walker, extension agricultural engineer, and Mrs. Mabel Mack, extension nutritionist, both of whom are now serving as assistant State farm labor supervisors. The signed requests for publications will enable county agents to check on how well farmers and homemakers have utilized this information.

Planned and Assembled in 6 Weeks

Although much more time could well have been used in planning, building, and assembling the demonstration, Mr. Walker and Mrs. Mack did an excellent job of getting their farm and home exhibits together in less than 6 weeks. At the same time, they had to arrange for schedules, places to show, hotel reservations for the traveling crew, and a score of other details in cooperation with the county extension staffs. Although the demonstration was well organized as it went from one county to another, the success of individual showings depended primarily on the cooperation of county agents and home demonstration agents who were in charge of county arrangements. This cooperation included publicizing the event through localized news stories, news pictures, and radio announcements provided by the State office, assistance in setting up the exhibits, arranging for halls and serving of lunches, and most important of all, getting local farmers and homemakers to participate.

The most successful meetings were those where the county agent called on local farmers to bring in their own pieces of labor-saving equipment to supplement the machinery carried on tour by the college. At Salem, for example, County Agent Jerry Nibler assembled 25 different pieces of home-made equipment from Marion County farms, ranging from a hop stake setter to a home-made tractor. The demonstration was held at the State fairgrounds, and the nearly 2,000 persons attending brought back memories of the annual pre-war State fair. Home demonstration agents likewise received assistance from their home economics or grange committee members who helped explain the various exhibits or served lunch.

More than 12,000 persons saw the



This local device—a power pick-up attached to a truck—attracted attention at the Polk County, Ore., labor saving demonstration.

21 demonstrations during the last week in January and through February, Mr. Walker and Mrs. Mack estimate. The largest crowd was nearly 2,000 at Salem, but attendances of around 800 and 900 were not uncommon. Farmers brought in a total of about 200 different pieces of equipment, and even a few local home conveniences were displayed. Nearly 14,000 bulletins were requested by those attending the demonstrations.

Local equipment included such items as a bale loader, turkey feeder, orchard rollers, chick waterer, buck rakes, plant-setting machines, hop drag, tractor buzz saws, power drag saws, trailers of various types, post-hole diggers, milk carts, hand trucks, fertilizer spreaders, weeders, onion planter, potato planter, self feeders, feed carts, power shake splitter, manure loaders, prune tree shakers, spinach cutter, weed sprayers, sack and bale loaders, filbert blower, beet topper, post puller, dusters, leveling blades, walnut picker, vegetable seed planter and fertilizer, bean wire reels, cultivators, strawberry weeder, brooder houses, and scores of others.

Among the farm equipment carried on the tour were a manure loader, buck rake, rust preventive exhibit, post hole digger, drag saw, army truck, model cattle guard, and pig

brooder. A fence post exhibit, showing results of experiments in treating fence posts conducted by the Oregon State College of Forestry for the past 17 years, attracted wide interest among farmers and headed by a wide margin the list of requests for additional information.

Among the exhibits prepared by Mrs. Mack, the portable wood box, kitchen utility table with lapboard, laundry cart, sewing cabinet, sink unit, and sectioned drawers, vertical shelves for pans and half shelves proved very popular. The homemakers' exhibits also included one on nutrition in charge of Frances Alexander, executive secretary of the State nutrition council; a laundry exhibit and ironing demonstration in charge of Mrs. Helen Arney; and others on adjusting work heights, food storage, food conservation and preservation, kitchen storage, posture, draft cooler, and a complete exhibit of work clothes for women provided by the Bureau of Home Economics.

The program was arranged to allow time for moving pictures and slides on haying, nutrition, and other farm and home subjects. The entire program stressed work simplification and labor saving—and judging by the interest shown, those in charge feel that the results were highly gratifying.

Do you know . .

DR. Z. M. SMITH

A great builder and pioneer who has put aside his trowel after more than three decades of fruitful toil in Indiana

■ To a vast number of people in the Midwest the name of Dr. Z. M. Smith stands for 4-H Club work, but to thousands of grateful farm folk throughout Hoosierdom that name also exemplifies leadership in a program that has brought immeasurable good to the morale of the farming industry.

Dr. Smith retired as State 4-H Club leader in 1941, after serving since 1912 in that capacity, and then continued as associate State leader until November 1944, ending a long and useful career that started with

tential value of club work, fostered the program from the start and set up headquarters for a club leader even before the State Legislature or the National Government authorized financial assistance for such work. Thus Dr. Smith, schoolmaster, joined in partnership with Purdue in September 1912 to start a great program built for rural youth.

Dr. E. C. Elliott, president of Purdue University, in tribute to Dr. Smith, said recently: "It was fortunate for the university that it has been able for so many years, to de-



Dr. Z. M. Smith, at right, who has set the pace for thousands of Indiana farm and urban youth enrolled in 4-H clubs during the past 30 years, gets a good laugh from the scrapbook compiled by Prof. Raymond Mulvey, Purdue agronomist. In 1912 Prof. Mulvey's 1 acre of corn won him the right to make an educational trip to Washington, D. C., along with eight other Hoosier lads.

a one-room school-teaching assignment in Jefferson township, Tipton County, Ind., at \$2 a day back in 1895.

Inspired with an idea for organizing boys' and girls' rural and urban clubs for the general good of agriculture, Dr. Smith went to work in a field that was new, wide open, and beckoning for an able leader.

Purdue University, alert to the po-

pend on Dr. Z. M. Smith as its connecting link with the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and the State Board of Education. Thorough training and long experience have made him wise as to the ways of the soil and the needs of rural youth. For 30 years the university and the State have garnered the fruits of this wisdom."

The tasks facing Dr. Smith in his

early days as club director were manifold. First of all, he needed to be a salesman. Successful club work meant the acquisition of full cooperation of adult leaders in both rural and urban communities. As most of the local leadership was necessarily dependent on voluntary assistance, that phase of the task became an important "selling" job.

Dr. Smith had the moral support of many able men as he launched the junior club program in Indiana, but as for a staff of assistants he had none. Second to the job of selling the program to the public at large, he was faced with the job of building a program worthy of the respect and enthusiasm he hoped that it would demand. Consequently, he spent countless hours in planning, discussing the club needs of youth with both youth and elders. But his initial outline of the purposes of rural youth clubs still stands, and few changes have been necessary in shaping the objectives of the movement.

Visited 92 Counties

Besides setting up the framework for State-wide club organization, Dr. Smith got around to all the 92 counties the first year and, as a result, got clubs started in 13 of them.

Club work was confined, in the early years, to corn clubs for boys and baking clubs for girls.

Soon after Dr. Smith took the State leadership he began to expand the activities to other areas. F. M. Shanklin was assigned to the staff, chiefly as organizer of pig clubs throughout the State. Response was tremendous from the start, and clubs were soon organized in every county. J. A. Linke was added to the staff the same year to promote interest in corn clubs, and Lella Gaddis was placed in charge of gardening and canning clubs and canning demonstrations.

In addition, C. R. George was assigned in 1915 to direct the organization of dairy clubs, and the foundation was laid also in 1915 for organization of poultry clubs throughout the State.

Dr. Smith recognized early in his assignment as State club leader the value of awards for excellence in competitive club activity.

In 1913 he arranged an educational trip to Washington for nine boys who

were county, district, and State champions in corn club work. The group was greeted in Washington by President Woodrow Wilson and at Indianapolis by Gov. Samuel R. Ralston. Those were the days when good hotel accommodations could be obtained in Washington for \$1 a head, and the best keepsake you could buy a boy was a watch fob.

These educational tours became increasingly popular as an incentive for teen-agers all over the State to strive for excellence in club competition. Thousands of eager boys and girls, guided by teachers, county agents, and volunteer leaders from many walks of life, joined in the club movement.

Competition among local boys and girls led to club displays at county and State fairs, and the value of that

activity has proved so great that fair associations in many counties, having decided to discontinue traditional county fairs because of the war, nevertheless, held 4-H fairs so that junior club work would not be handicapped. Likewise, the State fair has been continued during war years as a 4-H Club activity.

Club enrollment has grown from a few hundred boys and girls in the 13 clubs organized in 1912 to nearly 60,000 at the present time.

Z. M. Smith, who has served as the great leader of this mighty parade of youth marching through the years, has stepped aside; but the vast 4-H Club movement of Indiana continues to grow and progress, and the enthusiastic, worth-while organization is a moving emblem of tribute to an able Hoosier.

Contest boosts potato production

■ Amazing progress has been made in recent years in the potato industry in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Although potato production in Michigan as a whole has been decreasing, owing to insect and disease damage and to competition with other crops not so hard to produce, potato acreage on the Upper Peninsula has been increasing. Under the stimulus of the Escanaba Potato Boosters Association, organized in 1940, Delta County farmers have improved their potato production remarkably.

Back in 1940, County Agent E. A. Wenner wanted farmers to promote a better-quality potato for the county as a whole and at the same time stimulate better growers to increase acreage where advisable. He interested the business people in the city of Escanaba in forming what is known as the Potato Booster Club Contest. These men have interested themselves in the potato business of the county, have boosted the quality program and have donated money each year to be used as prize money for potato growers who take part in the contest. Each fall these farmers entertain the Escanaba businessmen at a venison steak dinner. Mr. Wenner believes that this contest is one of the most successful agricultural undertakings that has ever been attempted in his county.

Although the 300-bushel club was started in Michigan in 1922, the first Delta County farmers to reach that goal was in 1930. Beginning in 1940, when the potato booster association was organized, there have been 11, 18, 10, 20, and this year 27, in each year respectively in Delta County who belonged in the 300-bushel club.

In the 400-bushel group, there were 4 growers in this class in 1940, the first year of the association, 12 in 1941, 6 in 1942—a season of generally reduced yields, 14 in 1943, and 19 in 1944. In the 500-bushel group, there were 8 growers in 1941, 1 in 1942, 2 in 1943, and 7 in 1944 in Delta County.

In the Premier Growers Contest of the Upper Peninsula Potato Show, Delta County growers placed first in tablestock production in 1944 and captured all but two of the places in the premium list for certified seed growers.

One grower, Emil DeBacker, of Rock, Delta County, placed first in the certified seed growers' contest and established a new State record yield of 715 bushels to the acre. Mr. DeBacker was born in Belgium where he lived until after World War I, in which he served as a member of the Belgian Army for 3½ years, 7 months of which was served with the Army of Occupation in Germany. He started out at St. Nicholas 20 years

ago with a 40-acre farm, which he has since expanded to 540 acres, 265 of which are under cultivation. Last year he bought 1,000 acres in Marquette County, across the line from his Delta County farm. Both the State certified seed contest and the tablestock contest were won by two growers in Delta County in 1944—Emil DeBacker in the certified contest and Joe Depuydt in the tablestock contest.

Rotary auctions 4-H poultry

The Amherst, Mass., Rotary Club held a Dutch auction with dressed cockerals provided by 4-H Club members. Nine boys received 25 baby chicks each, raised them under the direction of Donald Stiles, county 4-H Club agent, and delivered 2 dressed birds for the sale by the club. The Dutch auction brought \$74.26.

Throughout the State there are 600 4-H poultry members who carried on projects sponsored by Rotary Clubs and other civic groups. In all, 15,000 chicks were given out to the boys and girls. Three hundred adult organizations in the State are assisting the Massachusetts 4-H members. This list includes 84 Granges, 14 Rotary Clubs, 19 Lions Clubs, 9 Kiwanis Clubs, 21 adult garden clubs, 10 seed companies, 11 fair associations, 108 town committees, and 23 other miscellaneous organizations. There are many projects sponsored in addition to poultry.

A long record

Nearly 1,000 citizens of Napa County, Calif., paid tribute to the Carneros 4-H Club at its anniversary celebration on Sunday, November 26, 1944. Dating back for 32 years to a Napa high school agricultural club which later became the Carneros 4-H Club, members have had a continuous and successful record. Some of those who have graduated from the club during the years came to tell of the club in the old days and to pay tribute to its leadership. The program finished up with the candlelighting ceremony put on by members of the 1944 Carneros Club when each member pledged anew his Head, Heart, Hands and Health to the service of his community and his country.

Adding interest to 4-H meetings

AMELIA STANTON, Home Demonstration Agent, Shelby County, Tenn.

■ It is said that 4-H Club work teaches boys and girls how to meet together, play together, cooperate, and achieve. Most of these things come about in the 4-H Club meetings.

In Shelby County we have 56 4-H Clubs with 2,057 boys and girls enrolled. Their meetings are held at least once a month during the school year. Upon request of the school principals and club members, some of the clubs hold regular meetings twice a month.

A definite monthly schedule is worked out with the assistant county agent and the principals. The boys and girls clubs meet at the same time; occasionally they plan a joint program, but usually the clubs meet separately.

Club Year Starts in Fall

The 4-H Club year in Shelby County begins in the fall after school starts in September. At the first fall meeting, record books are completed and turned in; and in the second meeting, new members are invited to visit or join, and the new officers are elected. Much importance and responsibility are placed on the officers. If the officers have leadership ability and are vitally interested in the 4-H Club, the members will be enthusiastic and will do better club work. We try to impress upon the club members that it is their club and that we are there to help them. We try to have the meetings conducted in an orderly manner so as to provide valuable experience in parliamentary procedure. The president and secretary always sit at a table or desk facing the club members. The flag desk set, a miniature American flag and a 4-H flag, adds dignity to the meeting.

I have found that children really learn by doing; also they become more interested in club work if they do something worth while in their meetings. In each meeting a committee is appointed by the vice president to prepare a short program of about 10 to 15 minutes for the following meeting. A well-planned program is an important factor in the success of our local clubs. Such

programs should be timely and interesting to all club members. Some of the best programs of last year were developed on the theme of fire prevention, with a clever skit about a common fire hazard and several skits on safety followed by a motion picture on that subject. Good programs were planned on such subjects as the origin and purpose of 4-H Clubs, 4-H looks ahead in '44 and '45, nutrition, and 4-H book reviews. Plays were popular and dealt with canning, care of clothing, and the Christmas theme.

We have been able to get some excellent motion pictures free of charge which have been shown at joint meetings. The members thoroughly enjoy a good movie, and it is an excellent way to teach a lesson.

Club meetings open with the club pledge, a song, and a short devotional. Then new committees are appointed, and reports are made by the standing committees, such as the war stamp and salvage committees. The roll is called, and the minutes are read, corrected, and approved.

The club program usually takes about 10 to 15 minutes. The feature or high light of the meeting, which takes from 30 to 40 minutes or longer, is the project study with demonstrations.

Demonstrations Fit the Need

The demonstrations are selected to meet the need and the interest of the club members. In the early spring months the members enjoyed planting a small garden to scale and demonstrating the setting out of tomato and strawberry plants. In the last meeting of the school year, which is in May, a canning demonstration is given.

In clothing construction, some of the clubs have hemmed tea towels and scarves and made simple aprons.

The demonstrations given on care of clothing were: Washing wool sweaters, mending and darning, shining shoes, brushing and hanging up clothes. Suitable styles and becoming colors and designs were demonstrated and discussed as a part of clothing selection.

Food selection or nutrition was

demonstrated through the basic seven foods, and a day's menu was planned and checked. Food preparation was demonstrated by preparing and serving a breakfast. Biscuit making was an important part of this project.

The home service project, which was added to the list of 4-H projects this past year, has done quite a bit to make some of the members feel that they are carrying on a home project. In order to create more interest in this project and help club members do a better job, a dishwashing demonstration was given. The two dishwashing songs that the members learned to sing as they washed the dishes added a little glamour to this daily home task. Bed-making and table-setting demonstrations were also given as a part of this program.

Christmas Meeting Successful

One of the most successful meetings recently held was a Christmas meeting in the Rosemark community. It happened that I arrived an hour early and found a small group gaily decorating their 4-H room for their Christmas program. I mentioned to them that we had a motion picture in the car. The picture was an exceptionally good one on conservation. They had planned a Christmas program, and they also wanted to see and make some Christmas decorations and favors that I had promised to bring to them. One of the members suggested starting their meeting just as soon as they had finished eating their lunch. At 20 minutes after 12 the meeting was called to order. After a short business meeting, 19 of the 28 members present turned in their finished tea towels to be judged. A sterling silver bracelet with the 4-H emblem on it was the award for the best work. The program was a short Christmas play with old Santa in costume, two readings, a Christmas story from the Bible, and a present-day Christmas story.

We hear much about keeping our spirits high during wartime. Recreation is a good morale builder. During the year, various social or recreation events have been held, such as the annual Shelby County 4-H Club Camp, music games, hay rides, picnics, wiener roasts, and Christmas parties.

Summing up, there are several things that can add interest to the

meetings: (1) Start on time; (2) have regular meeting days; (3) conduct meetings in an orderly and businesslike manner; (4) vary the response to the roll call; (5) teach the members to run the meeting; (6) make the business session short and to the point; (7) have as many members as possible participate; (8) bring something new into every meeting; (9) have well-planned, worth-while

programs; (10) open the meeting with the club pledge, pledge to the flag, or some 4-H ritual; (11) have a song leader and sing two or three songs in every meeting; (12) plan a recreation period—games, stunts, and songs—and find a good local leader.

It is a privilege and an inspiration to work with boys and girls who have as their motto "To make the best better."

A 4-H Club grows in Brooklyn

City boys who spent the summer working on a farm as farm cadets organized a 4-H Club when they got back home to the suburban community of Lafayette. This farm club among the apartments holds regular monthly meetings and is a part of the Sullivan County, N. Y., organization where they did their summer work. The boys organized a club tour to one of the largest dairies in New York City, inspecting the whole works from the 72 cows to the bottled product. William Brill, president of the club, has for his project a hive of bees on the roof of his home. Another member, Mickey Cardon, has a back-yard poultry flock of 16 birds and last year won a prize at the Madison Square Garden Show. The local leader is Darwin Levine.

An ounce of prevention

■ Clay County, Ark., is a safer place to live since the boys and girls of the 27 4-H Clubs launched a safety campaign. With the shortage of farm labor and an increasing need for food, club members realized that accidents had to be held to a minimum.

An outline of safety measures, compiled from a book published by the National Safety Council, was prepared. A space was provided so that the boys and girls could note improvements needed in their homes and check the progress made.

Members were given a month to complete safety projects, but the work of the program is encouraged throughout the year.

Under the direction of County Agent W. B. Denton and Home Demonstration Agent Mrs. Lola H. Lehman, about 28 "no smoking" signs for barns were painted, 30 ladders built, 45 doorsteps repaired, and 67 medicine cabinets made.

Mrs. Lehman gave a demonstration on the home medicine cabinet and discussed how to use first-aid materials. Sally Ennis, 4-H Club girl of the Hopsonville Club, made a cabinet for the school as well as one for her home. Joy Arnold and Rose Mary Barnett of New Hope 4-H Club made excellent home medicine cabinets.

Ten 4-H Club girls reported getting porch steps repaired, and the top and bottom steps of 9 stairways were painted white. Seventeen girls attached pieces of rubber to small rugs so that they would not skid. Help in keeping small children's toys in place was given by 21 girls.

A demonstration on the use of a

hammer and saw was given to the 27 clubs. The boys provided regular places to hang tools by painting the shape of the tool on walls of the buildings where they were stored, building separate boxes to hold the tools and driving nails on which to hang tools where they were stored or used the most.

Four hundred and seventeen girls participated in the safety campaign.

Governor backs 4-H Clubs

Governor O'Connor of Maryland, shown signing a 4-H week proclamation in the presence of two 4-H Club members, is just one of many governors who took official notice of National 4-H Club week to urge members to even greater efforts in the year ahead.





Extension agents join fighting forces

Sixteen extension workers have made the supreme sacrifice. More than 1,300 extensioners serve their country in the armed forces. These men and women are in many parts of the world and in various branches of the service. Sometimes their experiences are a far cry from those of pre-war days. News of their doings and excerpts from their letters are printed on this page.

Extension's Gold Stars

J. L. Daniels, formerly assistant county agent in Madison County, Ala., died, as a result of wounds received at Guadalcanal, in December, 1942. He was in the Marines.

Lt. A. D. Curlee, formerly county agent in Alabama, Army, killed in action April 6, 1943.

Ensign Tom Parkinson, formerly assistant county agent in Henry County, Ind., Navy, missing in action in the Southwest Pacific.

Capt. Frank C. Shipman, of Nebraska, Army, killed in action.

1st Lt. Leo M. Tupper, of Nebraska, Army, killed in action.

William Flake Bowles, formerly assistant agent in Watauga County, N. C., Army, reported missing in action on the Italian front.

Ensign Robert H. Bond, of the Federal Extension staff, Washington, D. C., Navy, reported missing in action in the Southwest Pacific.

Capt. J. B. Holton, formerly county agent in La Salle Parish, La., was killed in action in Europe during the invasion, June 9.

Capt. Frank Wayne, formerly county agent in Bernalillo County, N. Mex., killed in a vehicle accident in England.

Kenneth C. Hanks, formerly county agent in Stevens County, Minn., has been reported killed in action in France, November 16, 1944.

Herbert Pinke, formerly part-time 4-H Club agent in Minnesota, was killed in a training accident in the armed service.

Lt. John T. Whitfield, assistant agent, Tarrant County, Tex., U. S. Army, died at sea December 22, 1944, while en route home. He had been serving with the Army in the South Pacific where he contracted a jungle fever which proved fatal.

Lt. Col. Herbert M. Mills, formerly assistant agent in El Paso County, Tex., was killed in action in November 1944, while at the head of an armored column assaulting the Siegfried Line defenses.

Lt. Lowell Adkins Goforth, U. S. Army, formerly county agent in Clay County, Ark., died January 24 from injuries suffered in a vehicle accident while serving in France. He was attached to a unit of the American Military Government stationed near Metz.

Lt. Joe E. Carpenter, assistant county agent in Hancock County, Tenn., was killed in action on the Belgian front in January. He was a member of the Airborne Infantry, and notification of his death was received by his family on February 5.

Lt. Joseph Zitnik, Wichita County agent, Kansas, U. S. Army, was wounded in action in Holland October 5, 1944, and died a few days later.

Exceptionally meritorious conduct

Lt. John B. Waide, Jr., who formerly served as county agricultural agent in Moore and Bailey Counties, Tex., has received a citation for "exceptionally meritorious conduct." He is serving in the Civil Affairs section of the Army as agricultural specialist in the Normandy section of France.

The citation reads: "Lt. John B. Waide, the officer named herein, has performed conscientious and exceptionally meritorious service above the ordinary in connection with the collection and movement of indigenous food reserves to the Paris region. When this officer took over his duties in the field of this work, harvesting was lagging, processing facilities were for the most part at a standstill, transport was disrupted, and collection of indigenous food and supplies was confused. Through his efforts, order has been brought out of chaos, and the French Government officials have been given much needed assistance and guidance; and, in a large degree, the movement of some thousands of tons of varied food supplies and produce into Paris has been the result of his work."

Aboard an LST

You probably know that I now am executive officer on the LST 1001, and a right "jolly ship she is." All this fumdiddle about the amphibious forces is just so much bunk to me. I like the duty, and I like the job as much as I can like anything that keeps me away from home and the old job.

We started off by taking our rolling baby to Europe but arrived there too late for D Day. However, we did

make several trips across the channel to the Normandy beachheads and participated in the hauling of ammunition for the siege of Brest. Believe me, that was a tough racket over there in the channel, and we had some experiences I will never forget.

In between trips, however, we managed to sneak off for a few days at a time ashore in England, and I really got to see some very interesting sights in the southern English counties. One day I will never forget was when I took an 85-mile ride in a jeep to visit Tintagel Castle where legend has it King Arthur was born—the whole thing complete with Merlin's cave and the pool wherein dwelt the Lady of the Lake. The English countryside as a whole was beautiful, and I see where it gets a lot of its charm. The Yanks have really moved in, though, and I fear the halls of England will never be the same.

We came back from Europe in October, wrestled a full-fledged hurricane out in the middle of the Atlantic, and tied up in New York finally. Then we all shoved off for home on a 30-day leave—Glory Be! After the leave was over, we again set forth with the ship and are now in the midst of taking her over to make those three letters, LST, mean Last Stop Tokyo.

That's a kind of inadequate summary, but at least you get some idea of what goes on. Goodness, man, you should see this old typewriter pounder standing out on the deck of this thing with a sextant firmly clutched in one hand trying to take a star sight. Don't let it out, but I am supposed to be the navigator; and that is some step for a lad from the sand hills of Washington. It's interesting, though, and I really like it.

Home war work exhibited

■ Something different in the way of an exhibit was arranged last year by the Colorado Home Demonstration Council for their booth at the Colorado State Fair. As well as having a very attractive and informative booth, arrangements were made so that each day home demonstration women actually gave demonstrations of some of their many activities. The large crowds which gathered to watch testified to the success of the

If you so desire, I shall prepare a lecture for the first conference of extension editors after the war on "Why Jupiter Got Sirius with Capella."—*Lt. H. C. Anderson, formerly State extension editor, Washington.*

Carrying supplies to Normandy

Seven trips to the Normandy invasion coast, carrying supplies of vital war material to allied forces there, were included in the latest trip at sea for the merchant ship on which Lt. (jg) Charles R. Brown, formerly county agricultural agent in Franklin County, Tex., was commanding officer of the Armed Guard gun crew. Lieutenant Brown's ship went through bombing and shelling off the beachhead and also had a brush with robot bombs in an English port, but was not hit.

THE ROLL CALL

(Continued from last month)

ILLINOIS

Lt. (j.g.) Willard C. Anderson, USNR, farm adviser, Franklin and Hamilton Counties.

Lt. O. F. Gaebe, associate in boys' 4-H Club work.

Lucile Gingerich, American Red Cross, home adviser, McDonough County.

Donovan Hester, ARC, home adviser in Cass and Menard Counties.

Lt. (j.g.) Lucile Hieser, USCGR, home adviser, Greene County.

TENNESSEE

Edward G. Garland, assistant agent, Hamilton County, Army.

Cpl. Marion C. Jenkins, clerical staff, Army.

undertaking and the interest of both women and men.

Monday, Mrs. Marguerite Lindsey of Larimer County gave demonstrations on newest and shortest methods of ironing men's shirts and easy methods of fireproofing ironing-board covers and other household materials.

Tuesday, Mrs. Lea Adams of Custer County showed the simplest and easiest method of cleaning rugs and upholstered furniture. During her

afternoon demonstration, 90 women and 10 interested men observed the demonstration; at night, when it was repeated, there were 125 in attendance asking many questions.

Easy mending of overalls and underwear on an old-style sewing machine was given by Mrs. Fred Evans of El Paso County on Wednesday. When she demonstrated the 1-minute overall patch, the spectators were five deep. She emphasized the value of a sewing machine patch on overalls to prevent farm accidents.

A group of Pueblo County 4-H girls showed their first-aid training and gave an exhibition of the more common emergency bandaging.

Friday brought a splendid display of frozen food and a discussion of methods used in preparing it.

The central theme for the booth, Home Demonstration Clubs War Work, was set forth by a large sign in the center of the back wall. On either side were lists of activities showing what the club members have been doing in the home, in the community, nationally, and internationally. The exhibit centered on a farm family of puppets—Mother canning apples, Father bringing in produce, Daughter helping and learning through her 4-H work, and even Grandpa helping with the harvest.

The rest of the exhibits in the booth depicted some of the demonstrations given during the week. The various methods of food preservation were brought out, and exclamations were many over the good-looking jars of food. A partially cleaned rug and a jar of soap jelly called attention to this easy method of cleaning. A large doll on a stretcher, covered with multiple bandages, created much interest and showed the work being done with first aid.

On the other side of the booth, behind the table used for the demonstrations, was a card table on which the new-type ironing board rested; an old burned ironing board cover on the wall behind it attracted much attention and caused many ladies to ask for the recipe for fireproofing their own when they reached home.

The entire booth was attractively bordered with the colors of the Colorado Home Demonstration Council—green for the promise of springtime and gold for the fulfillment of harvest.

Among Ourselves

H. H. Williamson, new assistant director



H. H. Williamson, assistant director of Extension Work since January 16, specializes on problems growing out of the present-day cotton economy. These are the same problems he grew up with in Texas and worked with as a Texas extension worker for 31 years.

Mr. Williamson's particular job is to work out cooperative relations in a regional educational program to help in making farm adjustments in the cotton economy. Need for such an educational program was expressed in requests from a number of Southern States to the Department for a person to undertake this type of work. He also represents Director Wilson in administrative relations with State directors, mainly in the South.

He is assisted in expanding and coordinating the extension activities as related to the cotton economy by a committee of State directors under the chairmanship of Director Schaub of North Carolina. Other members of the committee are Directors Trotter of Texas, Jones of Mississippi, and Watkins of South Carolina.

Mr. Williamson was born in Bédias, Tex., and is a graduate of Texas A. &

M. College. Soon after graduation, he became State boys 4-H Club agent with the Cooperative Extension Service at the college. After 7 years, he was placed in charge of supervising county agricultural agents, then vice director, and for 8 years served as Director of Extension Work in Texas. In 1939 he also served as chairman of the Committee on Extension Organization and Policy of the Land-Grant College Association.

Altogether, he was with the Texas State Extension Service for 31 years, coming to Washington a year ago to advise the administrator of OPA on agricultural relations. He has done much to develop good working relationships between agriculture and OPA.

Woodward memorial fund

Friends of the late Director E. G. Woodward of Connecticut have established a memorial fund to perpetuate his memory. A portrait of the director will be hung in the reception hall of a proposed new dairy building at the University of Connecticut, and part of the fund will be used to help students. Director Woodward and his wife both lost their lives in the circus disaster at Hartford last year.

■ ROLLEY E. WYER, JR., Negro farm demonstration agent in Leon County, Fla., for the past 10 years, has left the State extension service to join the foreign staff of the American Red Cross. He reported in Washington, February 19 for a brief period of training before being assigned to some foreign post, possibly in Europe. He will be an assistant field director in the ARC camp program of service to members of the United States armed forces, counseling with troops and assisting with recreation programs.

A native Floridian, Wyer has rendered outstanding service to the Negro farm families of Leon County and has been commended for his work by A. P. Spencer, director of

the State agricultural extension service, and county officials.

■ RALPH E. WILL, the new director of water utilization for the War Food Administration, served as county agent in New Mexico, 1921 to 1934. He was a member of a boys' farm club before the days of 4-H Clubs and won the State championship in corn growing for 2 years. For a year or so he was assistant State director of agricultural extension work. He transferred to Resettlement in 1936.

From 4-H Club agent in Jamaica

Inez V. Gray of Jamaica, who recently spent several months in this country studying 4-H Club work and who made many friends in her contacts with extension workers in Virginia, New York, North Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama, writes of her return home:

"Two weeks after Miss Lewis and I returned to our island home, a hurricane hit the island, the worst since 1900. Thousands of people were homeless. I was the only 4-H Club worker out in the field, and my area was worst hit.

"By a strange coincidence, five students arrived here to study 4-H Club work, two from British Guiana, two from Trinidad, and one from St. Vincent; and our supervisor was ill! But everything is now brighter. Since November, six other organizers have been added to our field staff. The island is recovering wonderfully since the storm; but we lost more than 90 percent of our coconut trees, and these will not be replaced under 6 or 7 years.

"Today is Christmas Day; and very beautiful it is, quiet and cool, flowers blooming all about, with the poinsettia edge flaming red above the green. Nevertheless, I think I would like to be in your snow-white America just this once to see what it looks like."

■ More than 3,000 people attended the 4-H Club window show and fair in Laurel County, Ky.

The poultry house check sheet serves 4-H

C. B. GAREY, 4-H Club Agent, Newport County, R. I.

When the enrollment in 4-H poultry clubs doubled in Newport County, R. I., last year, problems doubled too. When there was anything available for shelter, young folks signed up for the poultry project, to combat the scarcity of meat and the high price of eggs. Poor housing and getting started too late in the season because of scarcity of baby chicks brought some unfortunate adventures to the new poultrymen. Reports of disease and extremely damp houses made it necessary to do something; so the 4-H poultry committee chairman, George Copeland, and the State poultry specialist, Thomas C. Higgins, and I met to devise ways of helping these young folks.

We knew from the spring poultry report contest that members enjoyed reporting their successes and liked to have their leader visit their project. We decided therefore to have a check sheet which leaders should take to the 4-H member when they would discuss possible improvement while the club member made out the check sheet himself. A logical follow-up was to ask that a report of the improvements be sent in.

The check sheet asked for information on type of roof, dimensions of house, number and size of windows, type of floor, and litter, feet of roost, use of lights, feet of feed hopper, number of nests, type of ventilation, grain storage, sanitation, and the number of birds for heavy breeds.

Making out this check sheet gave the poultryman a standard against which to check his own project. It provided a point of contact when the leader visited the member. It emphasized opportunity to improve and, therefore, did not embarrass the member; for his opportunity to improve was even greater if the project did not measure up very well. A study of the check sheets also gave the leader and specialist the points which needed most attention in the immediate future.

We set out to visit as many club members as possible, starting with the new members, and we reached 108 in

6 weeks. Other veteran poultry members were asked to make out their check sheets and bring them to the club meeting where they were discussed with the leader. Then followed a report on improvements made. In this way improvements were reported by 65 members, ranging from complete rebuilding of 2 houses to have things just right to ventilation improvement by simple window removal. Five members culled their flocks so their houses would not be overloaded. Six others built yards to keep their hens from wandering in the barnyard. Others tightened roofs, added nesting material, and built up litters from available materials. Four members rat-proofed their grain storage.

All together, we feel the results of the check sheet have been good. It has stimulated the leaders to visit the homes, enabled members to size up their own housing problems, and developed better understanding between leader, parents, and members. We plan another check sheet and home visit campaign in April when chick-raising practices will be the major interest.

Demonstration farms lead war adjustments

Unit test demonstration farmers in Tennessee are making a major contribution to the Nation's wartime "food basket," according to studies made by extension farm management specialists.

The program is cooperative between farmers, the Tennessee Extension Service, and the Tennessee Valley Authority. The Extension Service supervises educational work; the TVA supplies phosphate fertilizers and funds for employing extra supervisory personnel; the farmer furnishes the management, land, labor and other materials.

There are now some 2,600 of these farmers in 64 counties of Tennessee actively engaged in demonstrating improved farm management by adjusting their cropping and livestock-

production programs to increase essential food and fiber needed during the war, build up soil fertility, control erosion, make the most of available labor, and improve the financial returns and comforts of living from farming. A study of records kept by unit test demonstrators in Tennessee shows the following significant changes over a 5-year period:

Production of hay was increased by one-third; small grain was increased by two-thirds; and corn by one-fourth.

Acreage of pasture was increased slightly, but the grazing capacity was increased materially.

Acreage of interallied crops was decreased, and that of winter cover crops increased.

Acreage of cotton and tobacco remained about the same, but production was increased by one-half.

Whole milk sales were increased one-half by volume.

Egg sales were increased by one-half.

Hog sales were increased by two-thirds.

Number of calves raised increased by one-third.

Death rates of livestock declined.

Fruit and vegetable sales increased by one-half.

Commercial fertilizer purchases increased by one-third.

Increases in production were made with little or no increase in the labor available.

It's all in the planning

That's what the Victory Home Demonstration Club of Jefferson County, Colo., learned while collecting \$356 for the Red Cross this year in comparison to the \$13 collected in a previous drive in the same community.

"We wanted to prove that people will contribute to a worthy cause if personally contacted," Mrs. Marguerite Willuweit, their chairman explained.

Their steps in planning included appointing a chairman and solicitors who met together after receiving authority and information from headquarters at the county seat.

A map of the neighborhood was then drawn and the map divided into sections.

The solicitors contacted all homes personally.



Flashes

FROM SCIENCE FRONTIERS

A few hints of what's in the offing as a result of scientific research in the U. S. Department of Agriculture that may be of interest to extension workers, as seen by Marion J. Drown, Agricultural Research Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

■ Do people sometimes ask you, because you are connected with the Department of Agriculture, what the Department does that is worth while? "Does it do any war work?" they may inquire. That is your chance to go to town with the story of the contributions made by agricultural research. Here are a few high lights of the past year's work of the Agricultural Research Administration.

■ **Penicillin.** Everyone has heard of penicillin and its wonder-working healing properties. But few seem to know the part the Department played—and is still playing—in its development. It was the work of the Northern Regional Research Laboratory at Peoria, Ill., that made possible commercial production of penicillin. Further progress in 1944 included the selection of new, higher-yielding strains of the mold that produces the drug and improvements in the nutrient medium (corn steep liquor and milk sugar). Since 1941 the rate of yield of penicillin has been stepped up 150 times as a result of the laboratory's research work.

■ **DDT insecticides.** Another development that has been widely publicized is the use of "DDT" as an insecticide. The effectiveness of this chemical, the full name of which is dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane, was discovered by the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine in routine tests of potential insecticide materials. DDT louse powder and spray for mosquitoes, developed at the Orlando, Fla., laboratory of the bureau, have been spectacularly successful. Both are being used by our armed forces in the field. DDT in kerosene has been found to be one of the most effective insecticides against bedbugs.

During the fiscal year 1944, tests with DDT insecticides for agricultural

use were pushed as rapidly as possible. Promising results were obtained experimentally with a number of plant pests; but several important questions must be answered by further research before this potent chemical can be safely and intelligently used for agricultural purposes. Possible harmful effects on soils and plants, and on human beings as well, are not yet fully known. Also methods must be determined by which the harmful insects can be destroyed without killing useful ones such as honeybees and those that destroy pests.

■ **New varieties of crop plants.** Every year the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering releases new varieties of crop plants; 43 were released in 1944. Plant breeders develop these varieties for resistance to plant diseases or to insect pests, for better adaptation to specific regions, and for increased production of edible or usable parts. Hybrid corn, which has so greatly increased corn production, is one of the better-known results of plant breeding. Twelve varieties of hybrid corn especially adapted to some of the Southern States have now been made available, and hybrid onions and hybrid alfalfa show promise of increasing the yields of these crops.

■ **Saving livestock.** Continued research by the Bureau of Animal Industry on phenothiazine shows that that drug can be safely used for removing internal parasites from calves. It can also be safely given regularly in salt to keep sheep free from worms.

■ **A dairy product helps penicillin production.** Work carried on for a number of years by the Bureau of Dairy Industry has opened up a source for the increased quantities of milk sugar, or lactose, needed for penicillin production. Six different

processes have been made available for producing lactose from cheese whey, of which there is a surplus left from cheese making.

■ **Advances in food and clothing.** The Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics has made further advances in the field of nutrition, notably through developing a new method for determining certain amino acids, of which proteins are composed, directly in foods. The nutritive value of common foods can be more easily and precisely established by this method. Among designs developed for work and house dresses, one that has attracted considerable attention is for an apron that can be drawn up to carry fruit or vegetables picked in the garden.

■ **All in the ARA report.** More detailed information on these and many other developments in the scientific work of the Agricultural Research Administration will be found in the 1944 annual report of the ARA Bureau.

Contest peps up clubs

How to get reports from home-makers' club secretaries in on time and how to keep up attendance and active participation among club members were some of the problems discussed at the Goshen County, Wyo., Home Demonstration Council meeting under the leadership of Avis Campbell, home demonstration agent.

A contest idea was decided on and a committee appointed to work out a score sheet. So many points were to be given for new members and for attendance at leader-training meetings, so many for secretaries' reports sent in 4 days after the meeting, others for war activity reports turned in—in all, 12 different activities were scored.

The responsibility for the contest was assigned to the vice presidents. A large sheet was kept up to date in the county extension office, and many members stopped in throughout the year to see how their club was measuring up with the other clubs. Flags were awarded on achievement day to the winning club. It was evident that the clubs had much better attendance—especially at leader-training meetings—and had many new members to report as a result of the contest.

We Study Our Job

Extension case histories

Most of our extension reports are an accounting of a year's work; they do not relate the changes that have taken place on farms and in homes as a result of a long-time extension program.

The case history method of reporting helps us give a well-rounded account of an extension project carried on over an extended period; it may cover a series of years or only one season.

The case approach is a chronological story of the growth of an idea into fixed habits of a group of people. Study is made of the characteristics of the people as well as of the economic factors that need to be considered.

A case study is particularly useful in getting at the interrelationship of many factors which have over a period of time contributed to the success or failure of an extension program in solving a problem. It is an analysis of specific situations faced, solutions tried, and results obtained.

A case story might be broken down into the following phases:

1. Statement of a problem as faced by rural people concerned.
2. What the Extension Service has tried to do to solve the problem: What was taught; who was taught; how many were taught.
3. Explanation of the problem and factors in the situation that must be taken into consideration in solving it—economic and technological factors.
4. Statement of the characteristics of people concerned that need to be considered in developing the extension program—sociological and psychological factors.
5. Chronological statement of methods used by extension workers and other agencies to acquaint people with the problem and recommended solution.

6. Results: How many people adopted the recommended practice? Did the changes in behavior become an established practice or habit? Was the desired objective accomplished?

7. Observations and conclusions: Factors limiting success of program in terms of objective; factors contributing to success of program; brief summary of significance of the case.

These are the main points suggested in a general outline for writing a case study developed by the Division of Field Studies and Training. Copies of several extension studies developed according to this outline are available in the Federal Extension Office. The case studies include: Better Furniture for the Home in Georgia Through the Making of Foot Stools; Alfalfa Production in Washington County, Oregon; Whole Wheat and Enriched Bread in Lee County, N. Car.; and Grow Healthy Chicks, Hartford County, Conn.

"Fight food waste" study

To find out how effective "Fight food waste" campaigns are in getting folks to change their food habits, nutrition committees made a study in two eastern cities. About 1,000 homemakers, representing a cross-section of the two cities, were interviewed in two different groups—about 500 before and 500 after the campaigns. For the pre-campaign interviews, random samples of addresses were selected from city directories. For the post-campaign inquiries the interviewers were instructed to call at the dwelling unit nearest to the addresses of pre-campaign respondents.

Local women who had received oral and written instructions made the interviews; they knew the food problems facing housewives in their communities.

Nearly all the housewives interviewed had heard of the food conser-

vation campaigns through one or more media of communication. The press and radio reached more people than speeches, demonstrations, and personal visits. Nearly four-fifths of the homemakers interviewed had received food conservation information through newspaper articles and radio broadcasts; a third of them had heard of the campaign through the Office of Civilian Defense block leaders and their neighbors and friends. School children carried home information to about one-tenth of the homemakers; and window displays attracted the attention of about one-sixth of them.

Judging from comparisons of selected food-conservation practices, before and after the campaigns, the educational information was effective in reducing food waste both in quantity and in loss of vitamins and minerals.

Opinions of housewives interviewed were that the quantity of food wasted in their own homes was negligible; although they believed that some housewives were less thrifty. Interviewers believed that the homemakers were sincere in their affirmations of "no waste." For example, questioning of 60 housewives revealed that only 9 slices of bread were thrown away in 3 homes during the month preceding the survey. The women said they had not wasted any meat, fish, potatoes, beets, lettuce (except outer leaves), apples, pears, and citrus fruits.

Despite the apparent results of the changes in food practices, the housewives showed little interest in the instruction given them in food management. Housewives admitted a few infractions of good conservation practices but most of them considered themselves good managers in their kitchens. Most of the housewives interviewed considered the food conservation campaigns a good thing for their community.—EFFECTIVENESS OF CAMPAIGNS IN MINIMIZING CONSUMER FOOD WASTE, by Howard R. Cottam and Douglas Enslinger. Bureau of Agricultural Economics, June 1944.

The once-over

Reflecting the news of the month as we go to press

WISCONSIN RADIO STATION WHA on the university campus was commended by the State Legislature in a joint resolution passed in observance of the station's twenty-sixth broadcasting anniversary. Extension Editor A. W. Hopkins was one of those who believed in radio way back in 1919 and has been active in the development of this station from the first. The legislature commended WHA for its record of 22 program awards and honor won in competition in the American Exhibition of Educational Radio Programs during 1937-1944 and for outstanding service in broadcasting, and for receiving the George Foster Peabody award for educational program excellence in 1943. The resolution recommends that the State university board of regents provide a plaque to be placed at a suitable location to "observe appropriately this historic contribution to the development of radio broadcasting."

GROWING A SPRING GARDEN was the title of a second series of radio short courses offered this spring in Texas. A network feature, it originated on the college campus every day except Sunday at 6 a. m. from March 12-17. Outstanding authorities on horticulture, entomology, and foods took part in the program.

RURAL LIFE SUNDAY is scheduled for May 6, and many communities are planning observance in their church services.

THE S.S. WILLIAM H. KENDRICK, a Liberty ship, was launched recently and carries the name of a former West Virginia 4-H Club leader whose work is still known and honored among young folks in the Mountain State. It was Mr. Kendrick who worked for the establishment of the State 4-H Club camp at Jackson's Mill, a service institution dear to the hearts of West Virginians.

THE SERVICE HONOR ROLL in Tecumseh, Nebr., was constructed by Lewis F. Hoyden, Johnson County extension agent.

A VISIT FROM Carl Sorenson, formerly assistant extension editor in South Dakota and just back from the Pacific front, brought the war nearer. He told of many experiences, such as being on a flat-top which sank, leaving him to swim in the cold water for half an hour before being picked up.

STILL AT THE OLD JOB is Capt. Edward A. Molln; but now it is near Aachen, Germany, instead of Dyersville, Iowa. Formerly county agent in Delaware County, Iowa, Captain Molln now sees to it that the 15,000 Germans in the Aachen area support themselves as far as food is concerned. His chief worry now is getting priority to get enough seed for planting. A recent AP dispatch, bearing the date line Cologne, tells of another former county agent, Capt. Elisha Abrams, from Newberry, S. C., who has been put in charge of agriculture in the Cologne area.

TWO 4-H CLUB MEMBERS took part in the Maryland annual extension conference. Their facts and ideas about what they had received from 4-H Club work and what they expected to get from it added a great deal to the conference.

HOME DEMONSTRATION WORKERS HONORED this year as "1944 Women of the Year" in the Progress-

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sive Farmer were Lonnie Landrum, State home demonstration agent in South Carolina; and Mrs. Rosalind Redfearn, home demonstration agent in Anson County, N. C., who has served the women and girls of her county for the past 31 years. Extension Service also takes some credit for another woman so honored, Mrs. Sarah Porter Ellis, formerly home demonstration agent and district agent in North Carolina, acting State home demonstration leader in Nebraska, and State home demonstration leader in Iowa until 1943 when she joined the Southern States Cooperative as director for the Southern States Farm Home Service.

EDUCATION FOR FAMILY LIVING in the World of Today is the title of an institute given at Temple University in Philadelphia, February 14 to March 21.

A STRAW IN THE WIND, showing the direction the interests of American women are taking, is the institute offered by Temple University in Philadelphia on education for family living in the world of today. From February 14 to March 21, an earnest group attempted to analyze and solve questions which disturb the American family. They started with the thesis that family problems are basic to national problems—and must be met. For sound and successful living, specific and authoritative education in every aspect of family life is needed.

CENTURIES OF SERVICE was the theme of the meeting to honor veteran 4-H Club leaders during Ohio Farmers Week. Altogether, these men and women represented 19 centuries of unselfish service. With appropriate ceremony, the 4-H award of the silver clover was presented to 172 leaders with 5 years of faithful service; the gold clover for 10 years of service was presented to 56 leaders; the pearl clover for 15 years went to 19 leaders, and the highest honor of the diamond clover went to 9 leaders for 20 years as leaders of 4-H Clubs. A banquet preceded the program; and a printed program giving the presentation ceremony, the names of the leaders honored, and a page of significant facts about 4-H Club work gave the leaders something to take home for remembrance of an important occasion.